

November 16, 2011

The Honorable Joe Hackney  
House Minority Leader  
North Carolina House of Representatives  
300 N. Salisbury Street, Room 612  
Raleigh, NC 27603

Dear Representative Hackney,

Thank you for the work you, your staff, and your colleagues in the North Carolina General Assembly have done to support military and overseas voters. As you know, the Federal Voting Assistance Program (FVAP) is the Department of Defense office charged with implementing the *Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act* (UOCAVA), as amended by the 2009 *Military and Overseas Voter Empowerment Act* (MOVE Act). Since the passage of the MOVE Act, State lawmakers and election officials have gone to great lengths to improve voting rules and procedures for military and overseas voters. To date,

- At least 23 States have codified the MOVE Act's 45-day prior transmission requirement into State law, with others pending.
- For the 2010 General Election, 31 States tested web-based tools designed to help military and overseas voters fill out registration and ballot request forms online, and for some States, to access a blank ballot through a secure, online download.
- Six States have adopted the Uniform Law Commission's model legislation.
- All but four States have eliminated witness and notary requirements for military and overseas voters.

These developments will help expand opportunity for military and overseas voters to participate in U.S. elections. There is, however, still more that can be done. With that in mind, I want to discuss the FVAP Legislative Initiatives. Each year, FVAP contacts the Chief Election Officer and the legislative leadership in each State to recommend Legislative Initiatives that, once enacted, will expand opportunity for military and overseas voters to participate in U.S. elections.

As you know, North Carolina this year enacted the HB 514, the Uniform Military and Overseas Voter Act (UMOVA). As one of six States to adopt UMOVA, North Carolina has proven itself to be a leader in supporting military and overseas voters. In fact, the only FVAP Legislative Initiative North Carolina has yet to fulfill is the introduction of a web-based tool allowing voters to download election materials,

including ballots. The State Board of Elections, however, is already on pace to introduce just such a system for the 2012 elections.

I applaud you and your colleagues in North Carolina for the tremendous work you are doing to support military and overseas voters. For your reference, I have included a chart of each State's adoption of FVAP's recommendations.

Please do not hesitate to contact my staff or me. We will be happy to provide research, sample language, or testimony—anything that will assist you in serving military and overseas voters.

Sincerely,

Bob Carey  
Director, Federal Voting Assistance Program

Enclosure:

1. Chart: 2012 Legislative Initiatives by State

cc:

Mr. Gary O. Bartlett  
The Honorable Phil Berger  
The Honorable Martin L. Nesbitt  
The Honorable Thom Tillis